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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 781  
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Garrett Hines upon winning a Silver Medal in the four-man bobsled event at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should recognize those citizens who, through their determination, ability, and endurance, have distinguished themselves as champions in the realm of international athletic competition; and

WHEREAS, one such praiseworthy person is Garrett Hines, who won a Silver Medal at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in the four-man bobsled competition; and

WHEREAS, a talented and dedicated athlete, Mr. Hines, since 1995, has won two Bronze Medals, seven Silver Medals, and five Gold Medals in national and international bobsled competitions; this distinguished athlete has skillfully and honorably represented the United States in four World Championships and two Winter Olympic Games (Nagano and Salt Lake City); and

WHEREAS, a native of Chicago, Illinois, he is the loving son of Ms. Shirley Hines and the late Mr. Edward Hines, a Veteran of the Korean War; and

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WHEREAS, Garrett Hines was raised in Memphis and is a graduate of Bartlett High School Class of 1987; a talented student-athlete, he played football his Senior year and was named to *Who's Who Among High School Students*; and

WHEREAS, a sterling scholar, Mr. Hines graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1992 with a degree in Biological Science; and

WHEREAS, a member of the United States Army Reserves since 1998, he holds the rank of First Lieutenant and admirably serves as an Environmental Engineer; he has received an Army commendation for his meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, at the encouragement of a track and field colleague who felt Garrett's speed and strength would be a good match for the demands of bobsled competition, Garrett Hines attended a bobsled tryout camp in 1992; and

WHEREAS, through his steadfast commitment to the sport and his incomparable work ethic, he quickly joined the ranks of the world's greatest athletes; he served as a 1994 Olympic Team Alternate for the U.S. and proudly represented his country in the Nagano 1998 Olympic Games and the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympic Games, where he captured the Silver medal in the four-man bobsled and placed fourth in the two-man bobsled; and

WHEREAS, due to their outstanding showing at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, Mr. Hines and his teammate Mr. Randy Jones have earned the distinction of being the first African American males from the U.S. to win medals in the Winter Olympics; their victory is also exceptional in that the last U.S. win in the four-man bobsled event was in the 1956 Winter Olympic Games; and

WHEREAS, Garrett Hines has reached the very pinnacle of athletic competition; he was National Push Champion for 1999, 2000, and 2001 and the Army Athlete of the Year for 1998; he is the only athlete to score over 1000 points in the national Six Item Test Record Event; and

WHEREAS, a highly acclaimed and internationally recognized athlete, Mr. Hines has appeared on the *Today Show*, *ESPN2*, *ESPN*, *Outdoor Life Network*, *BET online*, and *Sport*

*CNN* and featured in *USA Today*, *People Magazine*, *Jet*, *Men's Health*, and *Soldiers Magazine*; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, he is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, Ileana Hines, and their three children, Kortnee T. Hines, Nicholle E. Hines, and Kendall Hines; and

WHEREAS, through diligent practice, steady composure during competition, and unwavering commitment of his time and talent, Garrett Hines has been able to emerge victorious from competition against the elite athletes of the World; and

WHEREAS, this legislative body finds it appropriate to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Hines for his remarkable achievements at the 2002 Olympics Games and in all his athletic endeavors; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Garrett Hines upon winning the Silver Medal at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in the four-man bobsled event, applaud his commitment to personal excellence, congratulate him on his many athletic accomplishments, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.